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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: McMeekin et al. Attorney Docket No. JBP-480
Serial No.: 09/503,262 Art Unit: 3751
Filed : February 14, 2000 Examiner: David J. Walczak
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2003 (Paper No. 27), Applicants request reconsideration in light of the following amendment and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.